

Wyalkatchem. Mr. M. W. Cook stated that in 1956 the birds appeared at this town. In 1952 they had arrived at Nalkain, 14 miles north of Wyalkatchem.

Tammin. Mrs B. R. Neek, writing on July 7, 1960, reported a bird which appeared to be a Crested Pigeon and stated that a number had been seen in the district and were new to the area.

Mundaring. Mr. A. P. Dillistone, in a letter of May 9, 1960, reported occasional birds. He also mentioned that in 1905 in the Chapman district north-east of Geraldton flights of these pigeons were common though the birds did not stay. In later years they became more confiding and began to feed in the stockyard.

Bickley. A bird was seen on the coastal plain flats west of the Darling Range scarp in October 1959. The children at the Orange Grove School stated that three birds were resident in the area.

Wembley Downs. At my home on April 11, 1960, a Crested Pigeon landed on the telephone wires. In the same district various friends had commented on the appearance of a "bird with a crest" about the same time.

—V. N. SERVENTY, Wembley Downs.

Curlews in a Perth Suburb.—Recently, whilst sleeping on a poultry farm in Uranium-street, Kewdale—a suburb of Perth 6 miles S.E. of the G.P.O.—I was surprised to hear the call of Curlews (*Burhinus magnirostris*), during each of three successive evenings.

On inquiry I learnt that these birds had been there for at least 8 years and had become quite used to living on the partly cleared banksia, paper bark and red gum land which is the general run of the country in that area.

On occasions when packing eggs a Mr. MacGregor who lives in Uranium-street tells of how these Curlews "land-in" close to the house at night where he works packing eggs and several times they have given him quite a fright when they called out almost under the window. They call out intermittently through the night, but were never heard earlier than 8 p.m. during the second week of February 1962.

Frogs are numerous in and around MacGregor's place and it could be one of the reasons for the birds having stayed there for so long.

On one occasion, some 4 years back, I saw two of these birds during the day standing close to a paper bark in the short dry grass. They were motionless but quite confident of their safety with human beings close by.

The above area is to be resumed shortly for a railway marshalling yard.

—N. E. STEWART, Cottesloe.

A Record of the Parasitism of New Guinea Frogs' Eggs by Dipterous Larvae.—Whilst collecting amphibia near Nondugl in the Central Highlands of New Guinea in 1960, the writer observed numerous clumps of frogs' eggs laid by *Hyla* and *Nyctimystes* spp. heavily infested with dipterous larvae. The spawn of several species is laid from February to May on the surface of water at the edge of turbulent mountain streams. The ova are unpigmented and macrolecithal, with diameters of up to 4.5 mm., and the albumen is gelatinous, and firm so that the clumps retain a constant shape.

The dipterous larvae were up to 10 mm. in length, and devoured the developing embryos. They bored through the albumen leaving a meshwork of tunnels which frequently caused the spawn clump to disintegrate, confirming that each larva was responsible for the destruction of several ova. Pupation was not observed, and attempts to collect adult flies were unsuccessful.

Bokermann (1958) recorded a very similar infestation of the spawn of *Physalacmus cuvieri* Fitzinger found in the vicinity of Sao Paulo, Brazil. The clumps of spawn of this species are also laid at the waterline. The parasite in this case was identified as *Gastrops niger* Williston of the family Ephydriidae, the larvae of some of whose members are known to breed in pools of crude petroleum.

Parasitism of frogs' eggs has not been previously recorded from the New Guinea region.

REFERENCE

BOKERMANN, W. C. 1958. Frogs' eggs parasitized by Dipterous larvae. *Herpetologica*, 13 (3): 231-232.

—MICHAEL J. TYLER, Department of Human Physiology and Pharmacology, The University of Adelaide.

Increase in Abundance of the Pink-eared Duck in Western Australia.—Although the Pink-eared Duck (*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*) is likely to be found anywhere in the State, it was until fairly recently considered to be rare (D. L. Serventy and H. M. Whittell, *Birds of Western Australia*, 1951: 192) since only a few specimens had been collected (H. M. Whittell, *The Emu*, 41, 1941: 164; D. L. Serventy, *The Emu*, 47, 1948: 270). A slight increase in numbers was reported during 1952 (D. L. Serventy, *W.A. Nat.*, 3, 1953: 187) and subsequently it was recorded in relatively large numbers at various localities in the South-West (J. R. Ford, *The Emu*, 57, 1957: 354; 58, 1958: 35; V. Serventy, *The Emu*, 58, 1958: 11) indicating that the species had undergone a remarkable increase in abundance.

Additional observations on the Pink-eared Duck demonstrate that the phase of relative abundance shows no indication of changing. Localities where I have recorded the species are listed here—under from south to north.

Jandakot Lake: ea. 50 on May 23 and 24, 1959; ea. 12 on June 21, 1959; ea. 30 on December 19, 1959.

Yangebup Lake: 10 on February 23, 1958; 20 on May 11, 1958; 136 on April 5, 1959.

Coolbellup Lake: 51 on February 9, 1958; 38 on February 23, 1958; ea. 20 on March 16, 1958; ea. 7 on March 26, 1959; 6 on April 11, 1959.

Marrida Swamp, Moora: ea. 50 on December 13 and 14, 1958. John Warham carried out observations on the nesting of the species at this locality (*The Wildfowl Trust Ninth Annual Report*, 1958, 118-127).

Naraling, fresh water swamps about 6 miles south-east: 4 on February 3, 1959; ea. 150 including a pair with ducklings on January 9, 1961.